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10 November 1962

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF REVISION

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT SUMMARIZING SITUATION RE CUBA

On November 8 the United States Government announced that the Soviet Union had partially fulfilled the obligations with regard to Cuba which she had undertaken in the exchange of letters between Chairman Khrushchev and myself. That announcement revealed that there had been evidence that all the known IRBM and MRBM missile sites had been dismantled, that there had been movement of missiles and associated equipment into ports and onto Soviet ships, that some of these ships had departed Cuban ports with the equipment embarked and that US Naval vessels were expected to confirm by visual inspection that the missiles were on board the departed ships.

Subsequent to that announcement the inspection from US Naval vessels of Soviet ships at sea had confirmed that the number of missiles reported by the Soviet Union as having been brought into Cuba are, in fact, now on board Soviet ships proceeding toward the Soviet Union. (Drafter's Note -- the accuracy of the foregoing sentence should be ascertained prior to actual release; it is not yet factual.) The Soviet Union cooperated in this inspection by providing the names of the vessels engaged in carrying missile equipment and by instructing these vessels to cooperate.

This partial Soviet fulfillment of the understanding embodied in exchanges between Chairman Khrushchev and myself is in itself of major importance. It is, however, far short of adequate fulfillment. As examples: The United Nations has not been put in a position where it could verify the dismantling and removal from Cuba of offensive weapons. United Nations verification of the removal even of all missiles and all warheads

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has not been made possible. The IL-28 bombers which the Soviet Union has shipped to Cuba have continued to be uncrated and assembled and their removal from Cuba has not yet begun. No safeguards have been established against the future introduction into Cuba of weapons capable of offensive use.

The USSR has indicated that it has been unable to obtain Cuban agreement to the fulfillment of certain portions of our mutual understanding. The Cuban Government has continued to frustrate the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations to obtain any United Nations inspections in Cuba or inspections of cargoes of incoming vessels. That Government must bear full responsibility for the failure thus far to achieve a distinct step forward in preserving peace in the Hemisphere.

In my letter of October 27 to Chairman Khrushchev I said that upon the establishment of adequate arrangements through the United Nations to ensure the carrying out and continuation of the commitments referred to in that letter, i.e., the removal of weapons systems in Cuba capable of offensive use and suitable safeguards to halt further introduction of such weapons systems into Cuba, we on our part would agree to remove promptly the quarantine measures now in effect and to give assurances against an invasion of Cuba. I further stated that I was confident that other nations of the Western Hemisphere would be prepared to do likewise. This continues to be my position.

If Premier Khrushchev supports the commitments explicit in our exchanges of communications and the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations to obtain a peaceful solution to this problem, then there is no disagreement between the Soviet Union and this Government on this issue. If the Cuban Government, however, continues to frustrate measures necessary to the security of the nations of this Hemisphere, there will continue to be grave issues. I am, however, instructing the Secretary of Defense to continue for a brief period suspension of enforcement

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of the quarantine in order to allow time for the removal of the remaining offensive weapons and to permit further efforts on the part of the Secretary General of the United Nations to obtain adequate UN verification of removal of all offensive weapons and to obtain safeguards against reintroduction.

I have also instructed the Secretary of Defense to continue such aerial surveillance as he deems required in the absence of other safeguards.

It is the intent of the United States Government that the basic conditions of the original agreement be fulfilled. We do not propose that the threat to this Hemisphere of weapons capable of offensive use in Cuba continue.

In my speech of October 22 I spoke not only to the people of the United States but also to the people of Cuba. To them I wish to say that should they wish to rejoin the fellowship of free and independent states in this Hemisphere, free from dependence upon any foreign state, they would receive a warm welcome.

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